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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Meyers
Appl No.: 09/464,039 Group Art Unit: 1633
Filed: December 15, 1999 Examiner: S. Kaushal
For: 21612, 21615, 21620, 21676, 33756, NOVEL HUMAN ALCOHOL
DEHYDROGENASES (Title as Amended)

May 29, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This is in response to the Office Action mailed March 26, 2001, in which the Examiner has required restriction between Groups I-XXX. Applicant hereby provisionally elects with traverse to prosecute Group IV (claims 61-67 and 72-73 as drawn to SEQ ID NO:8) and expressly reserves the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims and species.

Group IV is drawn to isolated nucleic acid molecules, vectors, host cells, and methods of making a polypeptide. The nucleic acid molecules of Group IV are also used in the methods of detecting the presence of a nucleic acid sequence of Group XIX (claims 77-79 as drawn to SEQ ID NO:8). In fact, patentability of the methods of Group XIX will largely depend on the novelty of the nucleic acid molecules of Group IV.

For these reasons, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and examine Groups IV and XIX together. Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned agent so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

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It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR §1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on May 29, 2001.

Nora C. Martinez
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